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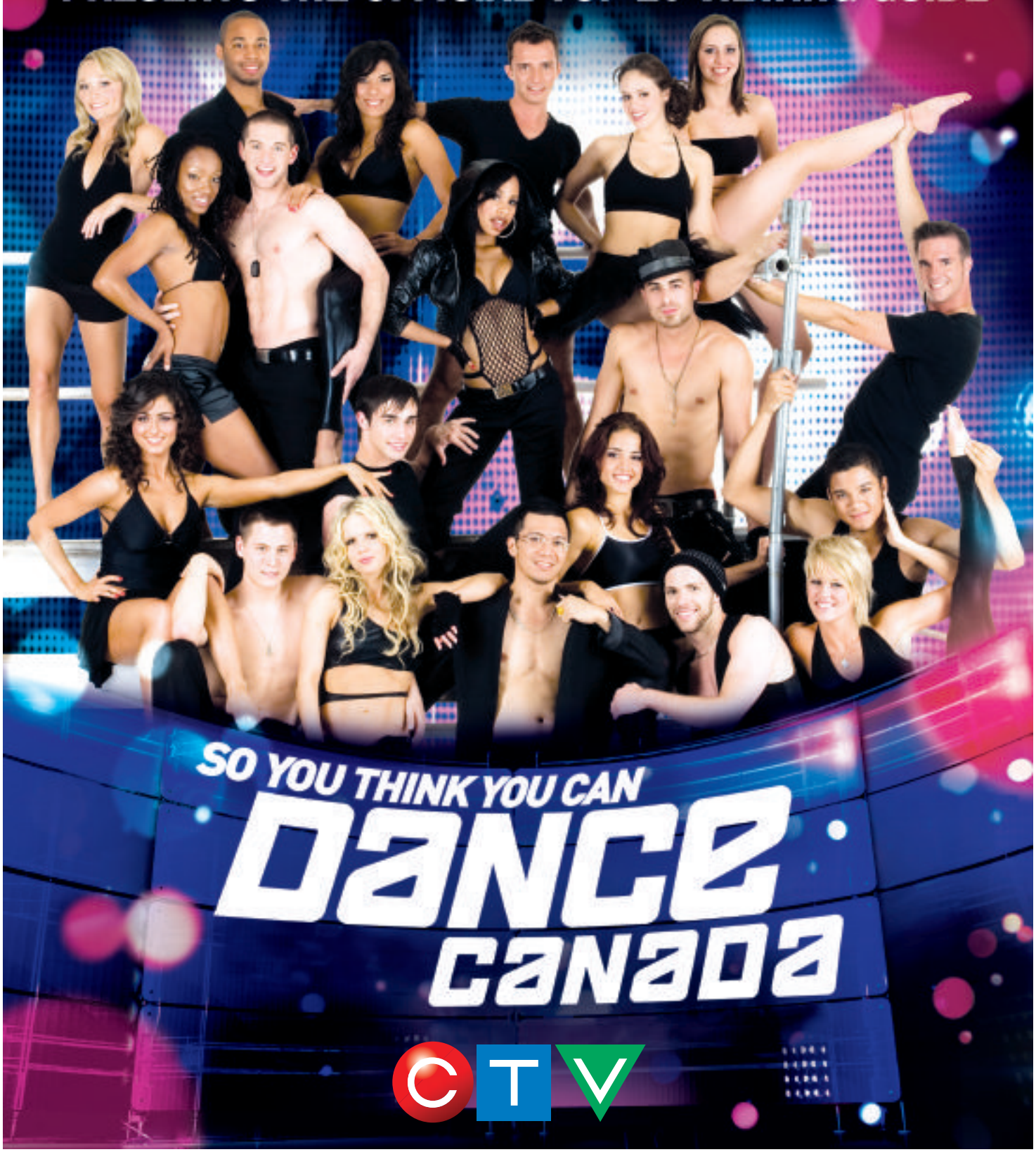

LEAH MILLER
HOST

From host of *MuchOnDemand* to the new host of ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada***, Miller has come a long way from the audition that landed her a job with Canada's flagship music station, MuchMusic. As a three-time host of the *MuchMusic Video Awards* and co-host of *MuchOnDemand*, Miller has interviewed some of the hottest stars and musical acts around, including Coldplay, Halle Berry, Kanye West, Rhianna and Matthew McConaughey. A music and dance aficionado, Miller tapped into the dance world at a young age. Miller danced competitively until the age of 16, an experience that gives her first-hand knowledge of the hard work and dedication it takes to become a competitive dancer.

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World pg 8

U.S. rivals spar over economy at second debate

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ONTON • WEDNESDAY OCTOBER ... metron

Celebrity pg 23

Ramsay rips into Prince Charles' produce

Man leaps from window to avoid shots

CRIME A man jumped out of a window from his second floor suite when several masked men fired a gun several times at him Monday night.

Police say the group kicked in the door of the suite at 99 Avenue and 156 Street shortly after 10 p.m., barged into the bedroom, and opened fire on the 32-year-old.

The man dove through the window, police said, and then ran to a nearby house for help.

The man is currently being treated in hospital for non-life-threatening gunshot wounds, along with broken bones and cuts from glass after his fall.

Edmonton Police spokeswoman Karen Carlson says investigators are still trying to figure out if the man knew his attackers.

"This case is still under investigation," said Carlson.

City cops say they only have limited descriptions of the suspects. JEFF CUMMINGS/ METRO EDMONTON

Sports pg 15

No doom and gloom for NHL

Election 2008 pg 6

- PM pushes platform
- Heard On The Street

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BEN LEMPHERS/METRO EDMONTON

Edmonton Police Service Chief Mike Boyd addresses the media yesterday following two alleged sex assaults on area girls.

No public warning

Police gave no notification offender was out, chief admits

JEFF CUMMINGS
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In the wake of a child abduction on the weekend and the shocking revelation of a similar attack on Friday, Edmonton's top cop said yesterday police were aware of a convicted sexual offender who lived in an apartment building with children.

No notification to the public was ever made about the offender's release because a risk assessment done by police wasn't conducted at that time, said Police Chief Mike Boyd.

And an assessment wasn't done because city cops never received a package of information from Corrections Service Canada, Boyd added.

"Corrections Service Canada will launch an investigation into this incident and we'll fully cooperate," said Boyd.

Jeff Campbell, a CSC spokesman, says "it appears that full notification may not have been made" with police.

Danial Todd Gratton, 44, was released from parole back in March after completing a voluntary treatment for sexual offenders, said Det. Doug MacLeod with the Edmonton police high-risk offenders' section.

Gratton — already charged with abducting and sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl in the city's northend Sunday — is now accused of assaulting another girl Friday night.

On top of the charges he already faces in relation to the attack on Sunday, Gratton is now charged with sexual interference and kidnapping.

Another girl assaulted: Police

- Police say two 10-year-old girls were playing in the area of 137 Avenue and 48 Street Friday night when they were approached by a man who offered them ice cream from a nearby restaurant.
- One of the girls, who recognized the man from her apartment building, ran home to get her parents' permission, police said. The suspect drove off with the other girl in the vehicle he allegedly sexually assaulted her. Police say the man dropped the girl off and threatened to harm her if she told anyone about the attack.
- After telling her mother about the attack, police were notified and answered the call just after midnight Sunday, about 10 hours before the seven-year-old girl was taken from a playground near 132A Avenue and 33 Street.

School zones unlikely to return

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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SAFETY Concerned parents and community league members had their hopes of bringing back school zones deflated yesterday, but will work with school boards to find safe solutions for the their kids.

The Transportation and Public Works committee yesterday shot down the proposal, citing provincial guidelines.

"Scanning all the schools and how they fit with the provincial guidelines, there were a small number (20) that came up," said Brice Stephenson, the city's transportation manager of operations.

Woodcroft Community League president Patricia Grell said that of the 3,750 cars that drive past the area's elementary school, most are going faster than the 60-km/h speed limit.

Axed

- School zones were abolished in Edmonton in the early 1970s when it was determined that they created a false sense of security among children and were often ignored by drivers.

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PI-2098 1.01ct Round Brilliant Ideal Cut SI1/J	$12,100	$5,900
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Hip hop show to bust out this weekend
Hip hop up-and-comer Flo Rida is hitting up E-town for a special show Friday. Alongside local beatbox phenoms Unkle Sam and Shamik, Flo Rida hits the Edmonton Events Centre stage at 8 p.m. For tickets, call (780) 445-4921. METRO EDMONTON

Local

Thinking of changing industries?

The Edmonton Job and Education Fair will be taking over the Shaw Conference Centre Oct. 15, with a focus on careers in finance, accounting and insurance. The fair, which will be held in Salons 8 and 9, will be a one-stop shop to access 100 top industry employers and educational institutions. There is no cost to attend the event, which runs from noon to 6 p.m. METRO EDMONTON

LRT meeting postponed

TRANSPORTATION Members of Edmonton's city council raised a few eyebrows at a Transportation and Public Works committee meeting yesterday, upon hearing officials are postponing a west end LRT hearing until after the city's transit plans are due to go to the province.

The public hearing on the fate of the proposed west LRT line has been moved more than six months ahead to June 2.

Transportation officials claim more time is needed for assessment.

METRO EDMONTON

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch Jack Layton and Stéphane Dion take aim at the Tory election platform at metronews.ca/canada
Follow a futile search to find somebody who cares about the election at metronews.ca/local
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search

Oilers go back to the future with new look

JEFF CUMMINGS
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The Edmonton Oilers are hoping a blast from the past will mean future success this season as the team will wear a new third jersey paying homage to its Stanley Cup-winning roots.

The new orange, white and blue jerseys are replicas of the historic jerseys worn by players like Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier, Jari Kurri and company during their glory years in the 1980s.

The replica jerseys, unveiled yesterday, will be worn 14 times this season, including their home opener against Ryan Smyth's Colorado Avalanche Sunday.

When the team unveiled its new home and away jerseys last year, Oilers captain Ethan Moreau was critical of the team's new look.

But with the new-yet-old look introduced in the third uniform, Moreau said yesterday he wishes the team could wear the retro jersey every game.

"It's a better-looking jersey. It's more like an Oiler jersey," Moreau told Metro yesterday.

"When you put it on, you feel like an Oiler."

Players will also have special gloves, helmets, pants and socks when the retro jerseys are worn.

BEN LEMPHERS/FOR METRO EDMONTON

Edmonton Oilers model the new retro jersey design outside the Oilers locker room at Rexall Place yesterday. From left: Sheldon Souray, Shawn Horcoff, Ethan Moreau, Steve Staios, Ales Hemsky.

Mayor confirms property tax hike

BUDGET Mayor Stephen Mandel confirmed yesterday citizens could be facing a property tax hike over 10 per cent, but that determining the exact percentage will take time and effort to help taxpayers understand how the dollars make sense.

"Our challenge is those people on fixed incomes that ask why we're spending the money," Mandel said yesterday.

Criticizing the drafting process, Mandel said dissecting a budget proposal can be frustrating, as it's drafted by city administration and delivered to council the same day it's released to taxpayers.

"It's a difficult process, one that needs a lot more refinement. In the end, we'll hopefully be able to explain to our citizens whatever we do, and justify to them that it's a reasonable tax increase."

Mandel has expressed his disapproval with the current proposal, and says he's been brainstorming ways to trim the fat since it was announced Monday.

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Maple Leaf workers mistreated: Union

Company refutes claims foreign employees housed 17 to a duplex, misled about pay

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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Union officials representing almost 100 foreign workers of an Edmonton poultry plant claim that the workers have been misled, mistreated, and stuffed in inadequate housing like sardines.

The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1118 claims that Maple Leaf Foods continually broke promises to foreign workers that make up one-third of the staff at their east end poultry processing plant.

Officials claim temporary workers are told they'll earn $15 per hour if they immigrate to Canada, when in fact, that rate is only attainable after more than two years of service.

The union claims that 17 foreign workers were housed in one duplex, and that if they try to speak up about the conditions, they are threatened with deportation.

"We are aware of the allegations and are just trying to gather the facts," said Maple Leaf communications director Jeanette Jones. "We believe the claims are completely unfounded."

"We have ... a strong relationship with workers in Edmonton. The facts will support that."
Jeanette Jones, Maple Leaf Foods

Workers have been on strike since Sept. 21, and are seeking similar working conditions offered by competitor companies.

Maple Leaf has not contacted the union since the strike.

"We have a commitment to working and providing fair and reasonable wages, and have a strong relationship with workers in Edmonton. The facts will support that," Jones said.

Reading **Imagining life at sea**

BEN LEMPHERS / METRO EDMONTON

Edmonton author Jeananne Kirwin visits students at St. Vincent Elementary. She was in the library to read excerpts from her book Greetings from Cool Breezes as part of Read-In Week activities. Kirwin and her family sailed around the world on a sailboat called Cool Breezes.

St. Albert to host seniors' competition

RECREATION St. Albert will be the home for over 1,000 athletes and game enthusiasts from across the province in 2001 for four days, as it has been named the host city for the Alberta Plus 55 Winter Games.

Events at the games include alpine skiing, curling, bowling and ice hockey, along with less physically demanding competitions like euchre and Scrabble.

"Being active at every age is an important aspect of ensuring a healthy quality of life," said Tourism Minister Cindy Ady in a press release.

"These games are a great opportunity for Albertans 55 years of age and older to compete and be active."

METRO EDMONTON

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Youth charged after pair of muggings 10 minutes apart

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Police are accusing a 16-year-old of robbing two people in the downtown core Monday night, both within a few minutes from each other.

City cops say the first incident occurred around 5:45 p.m. when a man was approached by a suspect from behind as he was walking near 99th Street and 102nd Avenue.

The man refused to give up his cigarettes to the suspect.

He was then punched in the face, which left him with several bruises, police said.

Police say they received a second call 10 minutes later about another robbery on another man on 100th Street and 102A Avenue.

A 16-year-old male has been charged with two counts of robbery, two counts of breach of recognizance, and breach of probation.

Woman killed in Highway 63 crash

JEFF CUMMINGS
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An Edmonton woman died Monday after her black Jeep Cherokee crashed into a ditch along a notorious Alberta highway that links the city with the province's booming oilsands in Fort McMurray.

Holly Adams, 51, died from injuries she sustained after her Jeep struck a ditch 15 km north of Boyle on Highway 63, police later said.

The vehicle went through the air and rolled several times, say Boyle RCMP.

The province is working on twinning the notorious single-lane highway, which has seen more than 1,000 collisions between 2001 and 2005.

Traffic accident investigators are asking anyone who may have witnessed the collision to contact the Boyle RCMP at 780-689-4081.

ShareYourViews
edmontonletters@metronews.ca

Man found dead in a Wetaskiwin prison cell

DEATH Police in Wetaskiwin discovered they had a dead man on their hands late Monday night, when they checked on a man in his cell and found him to be unresponsive.

The 47-year-old man was booked and brought into in police custody after officers found him drunk in public.

Paramedics were called when the man didn't respond.

He was pronounced dead at the police station.

An autopsy is scheduled for later this week. The identity of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The Serious Crimes Unit is conducting its own investigation with the assistance of the Medical Examiners' Office.

METRO EDMONTON

Hells Angel gets 11 years
An Ontario court sentenced a Hells Angels biker to 11 years in prison yesterday, after he was found guilty under what prosecutors call the "boss law" for directing others to commit crimes for the benefit of a criminal organization. A prosecutor said he believes it is the first sentence ever levied under the law. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada

Tanning ban for minors?

Ontario Health Minister David Caplan said yesterday that province will consider banning the use of tanning beds by minors. The announcement came after a report by the Canadian Cancer Society that artificial tanning facilities in Toronto are not following Health Canada's voluntary safety guidelines.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Toronto **$9M lawsuit**

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

George Lochner, 43, (seen here with lawyer Clayton Ruby and pictures of his injuries on the door) is suing Toronto police for $9 million in damages. According to the lawsuit, Lochner, who suffers from cerebral palsy, claims officers used excessive force when they barged into his bedroom Aug. 11 and shocked him with a Taser.

News in brief

ONTARIO A simple apology from a doctor, a neighbour, a business or a hospital that has made a serious mistake can often keep people out of court or help them settle lawsuits more quickly. That's the thinking behind the Apologies Act proposed yesterday by Ontario Attorney General Chris Bentley, who said the law would mean apologies could no longer be used as admissions of guilt in civil court cases.

SENTENCED A Hells Angels associate has been sentenced to six years in prison after police made what is described as Canada's largest seizure of date rape drug GHB from his Toronto garage. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Personality test can't be cheated, researchers say

Questionnaire may help businesses in hirinig process

University of Toronto psychologists say they've developed a foolproof personality test that will reveal your true colours, even if you lie to it.

Researchers say the rapid-fire computer quiz will allow companies to confidently hire the most productive employees based on revealed traits, such as conscientiousness and emotional stability.

"Even smart people who can cheat a normal test can't cheat this one," says U of T psychologist Jordan Peterson, who helped develop the quiz. "Even if you motivate people to cheat it explicitly, they can't."

"Even smart people who can cheat a normal test can't cheat this one."
Jordan Peterson, psychologist

A study on the test was published in the Journal of Research in Personality.

The test's uncanny accuracy, researchers say, is based on the reduced opportunity it offers for inflated or deceitful responses.

"In a standard personality questionnaire, you ..... ask someone to rate themselves on a variety of personality characteristics," says Jacob Hirsh, a PhD student at U of T and the lead study author. "So you might say, 'Are you a hard worker? Rate on a scale of one to seven.' The problem with this is that it's very easy for people to rate themselves a seven on every single trait."

The new questionnaire, however, forces people to choose between two or more telling characteristics. Furthermore, these choices are either all positive or all negative, Hirsh says. "It will say, 'Are you a hard worker, or are you a creative person?'," Hirsh says. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Numbers down in advance voting

According to preliminary figures from Elections Canada, 1,459,253 electors voted at the advance polls last Friday, Saturday and Monday. This is a decrease from the 1,561,039 electors who voted in advance in the 2006 election. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

NDP

Layton heads back in time

SITUATION NDP Leader Jack Layton has raised the spectre of the Great Depression to emphasize the serious economic situation facing Canada.

"The economy is in a very difficult time right now by virtually every measure," Layton said in Vancouver yesterday.

"Mr. Harper's response to the crisis in the banking system is to say that everything is fine, nothing needs to change, and there are no problems.

"R.B. Bennett couldn't have said it better himself in 1930."

Bennett was Canada's Conservative prime minister from 1930-35, during the worst of the so-called Dirty Thirties.

Asked yesterday if he was exaggerating Canada's economic situation, Layton, who never used the word "depression," said: "Not at all."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

COPYCAT In the latest twist in the plagiarism wars, the Conservatives say Stéphane Dion lifted parts of a speech he gave at the UN conference on climate change in Montreal in 2005. In an address on the Arctic, Dion quoted passages from a report on the effects of global warming conducted under the auspices of the Arctic Council.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PM pushes 'realistic plan'

Tory platform includes help for manufacturing sector

The Conservative election platform is a "realistic plan of action" for Canada's economy, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says.

Harper yesterday released the platform, a summary of most of the party's pledges announced so far in the election campaign, before giving a speech to the Canadian Club.

Harper called the platform modest and affordable, in contrast to the plans of his opponents, which he said are "written for an economic fantasy land; a place where money grows on trees, debts don't have to be paid down and taxes are good for the economy."

Harper's plan carries a four-year cumulative price tag of $8.67 billion, and breaks down into about $6.5 billion in tax reduction measures, and about $2.1 billion in new spending over four years.

It predicts a bigger fiscal cushion than most economists right now see unfolding. The Conservatives project some $8 billion in surplus over four years, after the new spending. The plan does not factor in the $4.2 billion in revenue the federal government raked in from the telecommunications auction of wireless spectrum.

New items in the platform include more help for the troubled manufacturing sector. The Conservatives would provide $200 million over four years for the aerospace industry and $200 million over four years for the automotive industry, both in repayable assistance. Harper also pledged another $345 million in reductions in tariffs on imported machinery and equipment to help support capital investment by ailing companies.

"A Conservative government will not be raising taxes," Harper said. "We will not impose a carbon tax. We will not cancel planned tax reductions for business. We will keep our spending within our means. It is that simple." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper delivers a speech to the Canadian Club of Toronto yesterday, unveiling the party's platform

Dion's response

- Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion condemned the Conservative plan as "too little, too late." "He has proven in the last four weeks that he has no plan and he's proving again today that he has no plan with the brochure that he pretends is a plan," Dion said yesterday.

Watch Layton and Dion take aim at the Tory election platform at metronews.ca/canada

Liberals

Economy No. 1 for Dion

MESSAGE Stéphane Dion brings his energized campaign to Toronto today on a mission to persuade voters that a Liberal government is the best custodian of a troubled economy.

The Liberal leader will deliver that message in a noon-hour address today to a joint meeting of the Empire and Canadian clubs, a day after Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke to the same forum.

Dion is hoping the back-to-back visits will allow voters to contrast his own plan to bolster the economy with Harper's "laissez-faire" attitude he says will prove costly for Canadians.

"Since the beginning of this election, I have talked about jobs, your jobs. Stephen Harper failed at his job," Dion said in Vancouver yesterday morning.

"Not only because he has no plan to fight the economic turmoil we are facing but because he did not prepare the country. He did nothing."

Dion offered some examples of the kinds of measures that Canadians might expect under the Liberals' 30-day economic strategy if they form government.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

6 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

Heard on the Street: Has the election campaign made you change your mind on which party you will vote for?

From Metro newsrooms across Canada

Elaine Siltala
age 51,
Edmonton

A: I would say that after the debate, I am heavily in favour of voting for (Stephen) Harper. I am pleased with what he is doing for Canada.

Brian Gregg
age n/a,
Edmonton

A: My opinion hasn't changed very much about Canadian politics from this campaign.

Shelley McDougall
age 36,
Edmonton

A: My husband just came back from Afghanistan, so I've never changed my mind. I'm Conservative all the way.

Kevin Thome
age 21,
Calgary

A: The debate influenced my vote more than the campaign itself, which I find generally slanderous and silly so I don't pay too much attention to it.

Marie-André Bédard
age 37,
Montreal

A: No. Politicians saying, "He's no good, I'm better," don't change my mind at all. I make my mind up with what parties have done in the past, on leaders' opinions and from the news.

CJ Symons
age 21,
Ottawa

A: This campaign has shown me that regardless of what face has power, the parliamentary system will only work for those who own wealth and to participate in it would just legitimize this circus, so I'm not going to vote.

Rachelle MacDonald
age 21,
Fall River, N.S.

A: Yes. I didn't really know who I was going to vote for until I watched the debate. When I watched the debate, that's where I got my idea.

Paulina Gostomski
age 20,
Vancouver

A: The campaigning hasn't influenced me. I've always voted NDP. I think they care more about working class people than the Liberals or Conservatives.

metro life panel

Metro Life Panel

Answers from the Metro Life Panel, based on 507 respondents.

Yes: 125 – 24.7%

No: 382 – 75.3%

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Naked swimmer evades police in Tokyo palace moat

A bald, naked man who said he was a British tourist went swimming in the moat of Japan's Imperial Palace yesterday, climbing the palace wall, throwing rocks and splashing water at police before being taken into custody. REUTERS

World

Nature inspires new products

The Alpine edelweiss flower may hold clues to making better sunscreen, while oyster shells could give hints about storing greenhouse gases in an emerging industrial revolution that mimics nature. "A more fascinating horizon is opening up for the green economy," Achim Steiner, head of the UN Environment Program, said yesterday in giving findings of a UNEP "biomimicry" project identifying 100 new ideas from nature. REUTERS

Trial of B.C. man begins in Thailand

COURT A B.C. man charged with abusing a nine-year-old boy in Thailand made his first court appearance yesterday in Bangkok.

Christopher Paul Neil, 32, was arrested in 2007 after a manhunt to find the person behind hundreds of photos of a man abusing boys that appeared on the Internet, CBC News Online reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taiwan suggests SARS was China warfare plot

HEALTH Taiwan legislators wearing surgical masks and displaying skull-and-crossbones banners took over parliament's floor yesterday after the island's security chief accused China of starting the global SARS epidemic six years ago as part of a biological warfare campaign.

Taiwan National Security Bureau Director-General Tsai Chao-ming told a legislative committee on Monday that sources in China suspected biological warfare, but that conclusive evidence had not surfaced.

SARS originated in southern China in 2002.

REUTERS

McCain, Obama duel

U.S. presidential hopefuls spar on economy

Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama battled hard at their second presidential debate last night but agreed middle-class workers are fearful about their economic future and need quick and lasting help.

JIM YOUNG/REUTERS

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama and Republican nominee John McCain smile after their debate last night.

With U.S. financial institutions reeling under what Obama called the worst crisis since the Great Depression, the presidential rivals differed on their approach to healing the economy.

"Americans are angry, they're upset and they're a little fearful," McCain said in the debate in Nashville. "We don't have trust and confidence in our institutions."

McCain proposed a new government program which would buy mortgages from homeowners facing financial problems and replace those mortgages with new, fixed-rate mortgages.

Obama said middle-class workers, not just Wall Street, needed a rescue package that would include tax cuts. Obama said the U.S. government should ensure Wall Street executives do not benefit from bonus payments from failing companies.

"We are in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, and a lot of you I think are worried about your jobs, your pensions, your retirement accounts," he said. REUTERS

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Tropical Storm Marco lashes Mexico's Gulf coast

Tropical Storm Marco rolled over Mexico's Gulf coast yesterday, dumping heavy rain and flooding coastal areas but causing little disruption to the country's oil industry. Rivers overflowed and rising floodwaters were three feet deep in coastal towns near the port city of Veracruz, as the storm made landfall yesterday morning. REUTERS

Empowering African women

Canadian organization helping development of nations

ALI ZAFAR
for Metro Canada

Ritha Abemba walked over dead bodies and witnessed people getting shot at the age of seven as she and her family escaped the conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of Congo for the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

"When I think about how we fled out, I can't avoid crying with so much bitterness," Abemba said.

But this past September, the 20-year-old enrolled into her first semester at the University of Winnipeg after being sponsored by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) — a non-governmental organization that links Canadian universities and colleges with refugees worldwide.

Abemba is the 1000th student the WUSC has brought over to study in Canada.

"Educating women is the key to development in Africa," said Jacob Mapemba, the WUSC's Malawi country director.

ALI ZAFAR/FOR METRO CANADA

Girls in African nations like Malawi can benefit from a gender-sensitive curriculum — something that experts say can help speed up development across the continent.

The NGO has introduced gender-sensitive curriculum in sub-Saharan African classrooms, educating girls as a way of speeding up development in the region.

Mapemba says the gender-sensitive curriculum in primary and secondary schools entails empowering young girls by illustrating them in a positive light.

"In the old curriculum, boys would be seen as being successful, being powerful and girls would always be seen as lagging behind boys," Mapemba said.

The WUSC has been around for six decades and currently works with 70 Canadian campuses and in 17 countries worldwide, including Malawi, a southeastern African nation with a population of 13 million.

Like many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Malawi's economy runs on agriculture and employs 75 per cent women. Mapemba says for these agriculture-based economies to become more productive, educating women is key so they're familiar with the latest technologies used in growing and harvesting crops.

"If women were well educated here, African nations wouldn't remain at the bottom of the economic ladder," said Joyce Phekani, of the Malawi-based Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children.

In addition, Phekani said educating young women will help reduce the high HIV & AIDS rates ravaging the region.

"Education will end the vicious cycle of HIV and AIDS," she said.

Ali Zafar is a Canadian journalist currently based in Malawi, where he works the Nation newspaper through Journalists For Human Rights.

METRO WORLD
Exclusive

China province with milk scandal reportedly hid mining disaster

DEATHS Officials in the north Chinese province at the heart of a toxic milk scandal hid a coal mine explosion in July that killed over 30 miners, state media reported.

Xinhua news agency said yesterday that over 30 officials and mine managers have been punished or detained for covering up the mine explosion in Hebei province on July 14.

The deadly blast in the mine in Wei County was set off by explosives illegally stored down the mine shaft. Relatives of the dead were either bribed or threatened to keep them quiet about the disaster, the report said.

"An investigation has shown that after the explosion, the mine owners and county and township governments colluded to conceal the accident," the acting governor of Hebei, Hu Chunhua, reportedly told officials yesterday. REUTERS

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'World's ultimate buskers' make it big for charity

The Salvation Army has teamed up with record label Universal to raise one million pounds for the charity. Universal will make an undisclosed donation and will release an album recorded by the Army's famous uniformed brass band Nov. 24. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

OIL Enbridge Inc. said Stephen Harper's pledge to ban exports of tar-like bitumen to countries with lax emission laws posed no threat to its planned pipeline to the Pacific Coast. It also said it was having no issues replacing now-bankrupt lender Lehman Brothers.

BONDS Canada Savings Bonds should go on sale today after being delayed two days, as the Finance Department revised appropriate rates, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said. REUTERS

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National banks, Fed to the rescue

The U.S. Federal Reserve stepped forward as a last-resort commercial lender and signalled a readiness to cut interest rates as governments around the world scrambled to stem the growing credit crisis.

The Fed created a new commercial paper facility that would buy short-term, highly rated corporate debt, in a program that falls outside the $700 billion US rescue plan approved by Congress Friday.

Chairman Ben Bernanke said the U.S. economy was being battered by a financial crisis of "historic dimension" and that the risk for inflation has eased with the falling prices for oil and other commodities.

Financial shares tumbled, led by Bank of America Corp., a day after the largest U.S. bank said it would sell $10 billion US in new stock and stoked fears that other banks may also need to raise capital.

Russia negotiated an emergency bailout for Iceland and unveiled an aid package for its own banks, Australia slashed interest rates by one point to six per cent, and today, Britain is to announce a rescue package that includes injecting public funds into banks. REUTERS

In Toronto...

The S&P/TSX composite index dropped nearly four per cent yesterday, ending down 400.88 points, or 3.9 per cent, at 9,829.55. It dropped for the fifth straight day to close below 10,000 for the first time since July 2005.

Pump prices falling, even to $1

GAS Pump prices are on their way down — especially in Ontario.

Fierce competition is what's driving prices down, said Jason Toews of price-tracking website GasBuddy.com.

The average price across Canada yesterday was about $1.14 per litre, reaching below $1 per litre in Ottawa. In Calgary and Edmonton yesterday, gas cost 10 cents more per litre than in Ontario, but Toews said Alberta should soon follow Ontario's suit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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THE ROAD TO THE TOP 20

Selected from more than 2,500 aspiring dancers, the ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada*** Top 20 dancers are exceptionally dedicated, talented and passionate. Now it's up to you to decide who will be crowned Canada's Favourite Dancer.

The audition tour kicked off in Vancouver and the dancers showcased their contemporary flavour. From the Pacific to the Atlantic, the tour headed east but not even the steel grey skies or bone-chilling winds could dampen Halifax dancers' enthusiasm.

The audition tour travelled to Calgary next where the judges were blown away by the strong technique of prairie dancers. After Calgary, the auditions stopped in Montreal. With a well-established hip hop and contemporary communities, the dancers were in top form in La Belle Province!

The audition tour wrapped up in Toronto where thousands of dancers filled city sidewalks. With an eclectic turn out – from street dancers to studio dancers – Torontonians wowed the judges.

The top dancers from each city met at Finals Week – a fiercely competitive process where the dancers had to learn choreography, perform their own solos and stay up all night developing group routines.

After an incredibly intense week of dancing, the judges chose their Top 20 to kick off the inaugural season of ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada!*** Over the next few weeks, the Top 20 Dancers will compete for your votes.

Only you can decide who will become Canada's favourite dancer. Get ready to vote, Canada!

2008 BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 8	Top 20	Thursday, November 6	Results
Thursday, October 9	Results	Wednesday, November 12	Top 10
Wednesday, October 15	Top 18	Thursday, November 13	Results
Thursday, October 16	Results	Wednesday, November 19	Top 8
Wednesday, October 22	Top 16	Thursday, November 20	Results
Thursday, October 23	Results	Wednesday, November 26	Top 6
Wednesday, October 29	Top 14	Thursday, November 27	Results
Thursday, October 30	Results	Wednesday, December 3	Top 4
Wednesday, November 5	Top 12	Thursday, December 4	Finale

CTV

dance.CTV.ca

Stars place Zubov on IR
The Dallas Stars placed defenceman Sergei Zubov on the injured reserve list yesterday. The 38-year-old Zubov is out indefinitely while recovering from hip surgery. He registered four goals and 31 assists to go along with a plus-six rating last season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Yankees' Rivera has surgery

New York Yankees star closer Mariano Rivera, left, underwent surgery on his sore right shoulder yesterday and is expected to resume throwing in three months, a month before spring training is set to begin. The 38-year-old pitched through discomfort throughout the 2008 campaign but was still dominant, converting 39-of-40 save opportunities and compiling a 6-5 record with a 1.40 earned run average. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

NHL is doing fine Milt

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

Let's put a lid on all the gloom and doom about the NHL, shall we?

Frankly, it's become tiring to read and hear irresponsible suggestions that the league, outside Canada, is in trouble and may be dying.

It's annoying that know-nothings such as CFLer Milt Stegall choose to publicly put down hockey as an illegitimate sport.

It's stupid, because here are the facts:

The NHL is healthy and it is thriving. It is four per cent ahead of last year in season-ticket renewals and new season-ticket sales.

It is on track to pass the 2.1-million mark in attendance in 2008-09. And it is likely to set its fifth consecutive season of record attendance.

So enough of this nonsense, ok?

• Contract negotiations between Marian Gaborik and the Minnesota Wild have hit an impasse and the club has begun to entertain trade offers for the 26-year-old superstar.

Among those expressing interest: The Vancouver Canucks, Ottawa Senators, Toronto Maple Leafs, Montreal Canadiens, Pittsburgh Penguins, New York Rangers and Los Angeles Kings.

Gaborik has one year left on his Wild deal but Minnesota general manager Doug Risebrough has made it clear that, because of potential distractions, he will trade the high-scoring forward soon if he can't re-sign him.

• The Philadelphia Phillies and Boston Red Sox are favoured to meet in the World Series this month, but I like both underdogs to win their league championship series, which begin this week.

Manny Ramirez, for all his alleged faults, has inspired the Los Angeles Dodgers to reach heights they couldn't have dreamed of reaching without him. They'll beat Philly in five.

And the Tampa Bay Rays were 10-8 against Boston in the regular season. There was a reason for that. They're the superior squad.

Hey, I picked the Rays to advance to the World Series after I saw them in Florida way back in spring training. I won't change my mind now. Rays in seven.

• But about those cowbells fans in Tampa Bay are ringing in their seats:

"Dumbest thing I've ever seen," Chicago White Sox pitcher Bobby Jenks said. "Annoying. Minor league."

• I can't remember when two Canadian position players have been as important to playoff teams as Boston's Jason Bay and the Dodgers' Russell Martin are now … Hearing Buck Martinez analyze the playoffs this week reminded me of just how terrific he was in the Blue Jays' broadcast booth. Wasn't a bad manager, either. What a raw deal he got from Jays GM J.P. Ricciardi … And what's this we're hearing about Ricciardi being approached about a contract buyout by the Jays' ownership?

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

World Series odds

• World Series odds from Canadian handicapper Randall The Handle: Boston Red Sox +185; Tampa Bay Rays +295; Philadelphia Phillies +325; Los Angeles Dodgers +345.

Brennan says no to Team Canada

SOCCER Toronto FC captain Jim Brennan won't likely be playing for the Canadian National Team anytime soon, CBC Sports Online is reporting.

At least not as long as current coach Dale Mitchell is in charge of things.

Brennan

Brennan, has been a stalwart on the national team since 1999, but blames his frustration with Mitchell and the Canadian Soccer Association for walking away. Brennan said he would consider returning to the national side if Mitchell was replaced.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dunleavy replaces Baylor as Clips GM

NBA The Los Angeles Clippers announced yesterday that head coach Mike Dunleavy is taking on the added role of general manager, replacing vice president of basketball operations, Elgin Baylor.

Dunleavy

There are conflicting reasons for Baylor's departure. Dunleavy told the Los Angeles Times that the team informed him Baylor was retiring, but Baylor told the newspaper there is a dispute with the team and on the advice of his attorney, he wouldn't discuss the move.

Leafs sign Schenn to entry-level deal

NHL The Toronto Maple Leafs signed defenseman Luke Schenn to a three-year, entry-level contract yesterday.

Schenn was the Leafs' fifth-overall pick in the 2008 draft from the Kelowna Rockets of the Western Hockey League.

In seven preseason contests, the 18-year-old scored a regulation goal and added a shootout-deciding tally.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Formula 1 drops Canadian race

Politicians and business people are scrambling to save the Canadian Grand Prix, a celebrated tradition in this city and the country at large for more than 40 years, which has been dropped unceremoniously from the Formula One calendar for 2009.

In what appeared to come as a surprise even to the Montreal organizers of the huge event, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), the governing body of auto racing, yesterday issued a revised schedule for next year and Montreal was off the list.

No reason was given. But the schedule shows that the Turkish Grand Prix has been moved from August to June, replacing the spot previously reserved for Montreal.

The inaugural Abu Dhabi Grand Prix has been added with a November date.

The race has been Montreal's biggest tourist draw of the year, with more than 300,000 spectators producing as much as $100 million in revenue for the Montreal region.

Yesterday, officials from the Canadian Grand Prix were not taking interview requests. A press release stated they had learned of the omission from the media. Until the executives speak to FIA and Formula One management, they say, they won't comment.

Quebec and Montreal politicians, however, weren't keeping quiet. Premier Jean Charest demanded to "know what is going on" and said he's willing to work with F1 to keep the event in Montreal.

"Total surprise," echoed Raymond Bachand, Quebec's minister of economic development and tourism. Bachand wondered if it was a "negotiation tactic" by Bernie Ecclestone, the head of F1, who criticized of the state of Montreal's track as recently as last year.

Noting the new addition to the F1 lineup, Bachand admitted that Montreal doesn't have the financial billions to compete with the United Arab Emirates.

Montreal's mayor, Gerald Tremblay, said his city will take an "enormous" economic hit with the loss of the race. "It's the only Grand Prix in North America," Tremblay said at a hastily called press conference. "So it seems to us that it's fertile ground for Formula One."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RON BULL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Formula One announced its dates for the 2008 season and Montreal's Canadian Grand Prix was left out of the schedule.

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SATURDAY'S GAME
Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:07
MONDAY, OCT. 13
Tampa Bay at Boston, 2:37
TUESDAY, OCT. 14
Tampa Bay at Boston, 6:07
THURSDAY, OCT. 16
x-Tampa Bay at Boston, 6:07
SATURDAY, OCT. 18
x-Boston at Tampa Bay, 2:37
SUNDAY, OCT. 19
x-Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:07
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Philadelphia vs. L.A. Dodgers
TOMORROW'S GAME
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:15
FRIDAY'S GAME
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 2:35
SUNDAY'S GAME
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 6:22
MONDAY, OCT. 13
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 6:22
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15
x-Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 6:22
FRIDAY, OCT. 17
x-L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:22
SATURDAY, OCT. 18
x-L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:22
x — only played if necessary.

CFL

WEEK 16
FRIDAY'S GAMES
Toronto at Winnipeg, 7:30
EDMONTON at B.C., 10:30
MONDAY'S GAMES
Hamilton at Montreal, 1
Saskatchewan at Calgary, 4:30

NFL

WEEK 6
SUNDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Atlanta, 11
Miami at Houston, 11
Detroit at Minnesota, 11
Oakland at New Orleans, 11
St. Louis at Washington, 11
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets, 11
Baltimore at Indianapolis, 11
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 11
Jacksonville at Denver, 2:05
Green Bay at Seattle, 2:15
Dallas at Arizona, 2:15
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 2:15
New England at San Diego, 6:15
MONDAY'S GAME
N.Y. Giants at Cleveland, 6:30

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Automotive

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Ford Flex packs punch

Stylish crossover a front-runner in its class

JOE KNYCHA
for Metro Canada

With a long list of innovations and style unique to its class, Ford's full-sized 2009 Flex crossover is bold and refreshing. At first glance it appears to be incongruous with rising gasoline prices. But gas-sipping microcars aren't ideal for everyone — especially those who regularly carry up to a half dozen passengers and their luggage or sports equipment.

With a long list of innovations and style unique to its class, Ford's full-sized 2009 Flex crossover is bold and refreshing.

Among the current crop of SUVs, pickup trucks and even crossover-utility vehicles, the Flex is an out-of-the-box front-runner.

Offered in Canada in two trim levels, it starts at $34,999 for the well-equipped front wheel-drive SEL, and runs to $42,999 for the all wheel-drive Limited.

Power is delivered via Ford's smooth 3.5-litre V6 Duratec engine linked to an equally smooth, six-speed automatic transmission that it shares with the Taurus X. It makes 262 hp at 6,250 rpm and 248 lb-ft of torque at 4,500 revs.

Ford projects fuel economy numbers of 12.6 L/100 km (city) and 8.4 L/100 km (hwy) for the front-wheel-drive Flex and 13.5 (city) and 9.5 (hwy) with AWD. Flex will be available next year with the turbocharged ecoBoost engine.

Inside, the Flex seats six (or seven, with the no-cost optional second row 60/40 folding bench seat) with ample space and comfort and upscale features and details. Thoughtful features include coat-and-grocery bag hooks and storage compartments throughout.

Class-leading technologies include SYNC, voice-activated navigation with reverse camera system, premium Sony sound system and 'surprise-and-delight' features like Ford's EasyFuel capless refueling nozzle and exclusive, compressor-driven refrigerated console.

Flex is built on the Taurus X platform, stretched five inches for greater middle-seat space. An all-new, Flex-specific rear suspension is designed for hauling and load bearing — it can comfortably pull up to 1,900 kg.

Driving dynamics inspire confidence in corners, with a steering feel that is linear and intuitive. Pushing the vehicle to its limit in corners results in mild understeer with ample early warning so that it retains its composure.

But it's the Flex's unique, stand-alone styling that will first get peoples' attention. Peter Horbury, executive director of design for the Americas, called the styling a "radical departure" for Ford.

Strong shoulders and prominent wheel arches plant the car firmly on the road and set it over the standard 18-inch or available 19-in polished aluminum wheels. Brakes are four-wheel discs with ABS.

Darkened 'privacy glass' and black pillar cladding add intrigue. The roof, available in silver or white, heightens the effect.

Despite the darkened glass greenhouse, the interior is bright and airy with first rate fit and finish throughout. An available 'Vista' roof lightens and brightens the interior even more, and allows for individual brightness adjustment over the second- and third-row passenger positions. The forward panel opens to let in fresh air.

The SEL's standard equipment list is lengthy, with highlights including auto dual beam headlamps, capless fuelling, power-remote folding heated side mirrors, remote keyless entry, power windows, doors and locks, two-speed rear windshield wiper, multifunction centre console, A/C, full instrumentation, message centre with trip computer, four, 12-volt powerpoints, three rows of seats and safety/security features including electronic traction- and stability control front and side impact air bags with rollover sensor seat belt pretensioners and tire pressure monitoring.

2009 Ford Flex

Type: Full-size crossover-utility vehicle, FWD
Price: $34,999
Engine: 3.5L DOHC V6
HP: 262 @ 6,250

Highlights

- Seats seven
- Easy entry and exit for passengers
- Quiet ride

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Nissan takes fans to top gear

BILL ROEBUCK
for Metro Canada

Nissan Maxima owners and driving enthusiasts got the chance for a sneak-preview test drive of the all-new 2009 model in the Shift Into Gear Experience, a program held by Nissan Canada in early September. The 2009 Maxima, Nissan's flagship sedan, has new styling, a refined platform, a more powerful V6 engine and a redesigned interior.

The exclusive program allowed participants to book test drives online at specific times for the event held at Nissan's headquarters in Mississauga, Ont.

Also on hand for up-close viewing were the 2009 GT-R and 2009 Titan SE, along with several other Nissan models available for test driving: The 2009 Murano and Versa, the 2008 350Z Roadster, Altima Coupe and Sedan, and the Sentra SER SpecV.

The opportunity to drive so many cars at one time meant that many participants lined up like kids queuing for a rollercoaster, waiting for yet another ride.

The new Maxima Sport and Premium models on offer remained the highlight. A standard test-drive route took about 20 minutes to navigate, with a few participants begging for a little extra time.

Demetrios Vandekas of Toronto was one such enthusiast. Currently the owner of a 2004 Maxima, he found a "great deal of difference" in the new Maxima.

In particular, he was impressed by the comfort of the seats. "I spend a lot of time in my car, driving as much as 40,000 to 45,000 kilometres a year. The seat extension is great — other cars are not long enough for a guy my size." The trim Vandekas stands six feet tall.

"The steering is featherlight," he noted, then was impressed as he noticed the paddle shift controls under the steering wheel in the Sport model he was testing.

"One of my favourite features in my '04 is the heated steering wheel," he added, and was told the feature is now standard in the 2009 models.

Drivers got the chance for a sneak-preview test drive of several of Nissan's latest models in the Shift Into Gear Experience, a program held by Nissan Canada recently.

"It's odd that with the CVT transmission you don't feel the shifts," Vandekas noted. "It's silky-smooth, almost surreal. I've driven a lot of cars for trips of a quite reasonable length, and it's the 3.5-litre engine that convinced me to stay with Nissan when I got my current vehicle."

Reliability is another factor that kept him loyal to Nissan (his previous vehicle was a Nissan pickup truck on which he put over 400,000 km). "I've not had a single issue with this car in 115,000 km," he says of his current Maxima.

"With this new model, Nissan has done all the right things," Vandekas added as he stepped out of the car with a smile on his face. "My search for a new car this time around won't be as vast."

Michael Cole, who is in charge of fleet acquisitions for the Ontario government, had a different perspective on the day, as he wasn't shopping for a personal car. "We have several Nissans listed with our fleet," he says.

"I found the new Maxima a nice car to drive. It's very comfortable. I like the design of the front end, and there appears to be increased visibility." He said he would check out the new model's fuel economy, improved with the 2009's CVT transmission.

Sean Ramsarran, who drove more than an hour to the event from his home in Waterloo, Ont., came specifically to test the new Maxima. He currently drives a 2005 model.

"It's been bullet-proof, very reliable, a great vehicle," he said.

He noted that he's never before bought the same model of a vehicle back to back, but the new Maxima may change that. "I commute to Mississauga daily with three others and they all like my car."

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New Maxima well-equipped

I like to think that whoever came up with the name for Nissan's flagship sedan will be set for life, looked after and rewarded by the company until the end of his or her days.

That's because "Maxima" is among the few truly outstanding names to be assigned to a vehicle, any vehicle, in the past decade or two.

It doesn't confuse the buyer with arcane alphanumeric combinations, nor does it liken the car to some endangered animal species or distant celestial body that can't be seen without a telescope.

Instead, Maxima quite simply conveys a message of quality and value, stating eloquently and in a single made-up word that it is the best car that Nissan offers.

All-new styling, called "liquid motion" by its designers, is a welcome departure from the bulbous look of the previous-generation Maxima.

The new seventh-generation Maxima is offered as one well-equipped model, the Maxima 3.5 SV, starting at $37,900 with optional Sport ($39,950) and Premium ($41,050) packages to which can be added optional Tech ($42,400) and Navigation ($43,150) packages.

The updated 3.5-litre VQ-series V6 engine delivers 35 more horses (290 @ 6,400 rpm) than before and 251 lb-ft of torque, up nine lb-ft, yet it burns cleaner and overall is three per cent more fuel efficient. We averaged 9.0 L/100 km on a several hundred-kilometre test drive over highways and secondary roads without consciously striving for economical numbers.

JOE KNYCHA/
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HP: 290

Highlights

- Quality
- Excellent Value
- More fuel efficient

Green like a Peapod

Chrysler firm introduces cutting-edge electric car

Clean and green transportation gets a new look and feel as Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) introduces the next generation of clean, gas-free and emission-free, battery electric vehicles.

Owned by Chrysler, the vehicle's innovative, groundbreaking design with its striking pod-like shape and sleek lines reflects the environmentally friendly nature that has been the hallmark of GEM since its founding 10 years ago.

The user-friendly mood of the vehicle, named the GEM Peapod, is enhanced with the newly designed center console that will offer iPod integration as well as hands free operation of the customer's iPhone.

Other innovations include ergonomic, supportive, mesh seating which enables air circulation for comfort and use of eco-friendly recycled and recyclable materials.

Chrysler's GEM is launching a new model called the Peapod, a plug-in, zero emissions electric vehicle.

GEM will also get a new name, GreenEcoMobility, signifying the company's goal to redefine environmentally-friendly vehicles.

In addition to the 2009 GEM Peapod neighbourhood electric vehicle, GEM has plans to market a new light-duty, battery electric commercial truck and a larger city electric vehicle, with more range and performance.

These vehicles are scheduled for production within the next year.

Traffic keeps flowing with Audi Travolution

Frustrating, fuel-sapping stops at red traffic lights could soon be the exception rather than the rule thanks to a new initiative being championed by Audi aimed at streamlining urban traffic flow and reducing CO2 emissions.

The experimental Travolution system, developed with Audi support by traffic management experts in the brand's German home town of Ingolstadt, will not only improve synchronization and phasing of traffic light networks to reduce stopping times, but could also dramatically reduce the number of actual stops needed by creating a communications link between cars and the traffic light network.

Communications modules built into each traffic light are able to send messages to cars in the vicinity, alerting them to the time remaining until their next green phase.

The car's onboard system is then able to calculate the speed which the driver must maintain in order to pass through the light during this green phase, and displays this via the Multi Media Interface display.

Audi's new traffic management system enables communication between cars and traffic lights.

A network of 46 of the intelligent traffic lights has been installed in the centre of Ingolstadt, the software to which they are all linked optimizing their phasing to bring stopping times down to a minimum, reducing fuel consumption and pollution in the process.

Of the 46 light gantries, three have been upgraded to enable communication with the specially modified A5 and A6 Avant models provided by Audi as part of the 1.2-million Euro pilot project.

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City L/100 km 10.8
Highway L/100 km 6.9

Put the power tools in the basement and the mountain bikes in the kitchen — it's time to empty that garage and make some room for a brand new City Jetta or Jetta 2.5. These wonders of German engineering are packed with standard features like ABS disc brakes, front airbags (as well as front side airbags for the Jetta 2.5), a CD/MP3 player with auxiliary input jack and all the fun-to-drive and European styling you'd expect from a Volkswagen. And there's never been a better time — visit your local Volkswagen dealer today to find out more about our low lease and finance rates or visit vw.ca for more details.

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*MSRP of $18,235/$23,310 for City Jetta / Jetta 2.5 with manual transmission. $1,335 freight and PDI included. **Limited time lease offer on approved credit available through Volkswagen Finance. 48-month lease offer applies to new and in stock 2008 City Jetta / Jetta 2.5 with 5-speed manual transmission, base model with monthly payment of $226/$307 based on 1.5% lease APR with $0 down payment for a total obligation of $10,848/$14,736. First monthly payment free up to a maximum of $250/$400 for City Jetta / Jetta 2.5 (taxes included – no cash value) applied to the lease of new and in stock 2008 models. $0 security deposit offered only on new and in stock 2008 Volkswagen models leased through Volkswagen Finance. $0.12/km over 80,000 kilometres charged at lease end. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer charges, options, and applicable taxes extra. MSRP for 2008 City Jetta as shown is $20,503 with Siata accessory wheels. MSRP of Jetta 2.5 sedan as shown with accessories is $32,310. Dealer may sell for less. At participating Volkswagen dealerships only. Offer valid until October 31, 2008 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Supplies limited. See dealer for details. †Transport Canada fuel consumption figures are estimates only. Your fuel consumption may vary. ††$750 rebate for recent college or university graduates. Certain conditions apply. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "Jetta" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2008 Volkswagen Canada.

Honeymoon help

Couples who book their wedding with Fairmont can now opt for the Platinum Honeymoon program. It includes the services of a Platinum Concierge, who can help select venues, plan romantic dinners and book expeditions or tee and spa times; *fairmont.com/weddings*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Couture house

Casa Casuarina, the opulent Miami Beach palazzo formerly owned by Gianni Versace, right, may be most famous for the designer's tragic murder on its front steps. But the fabulous interior and grounds also deserve to be known. Peter Loftin, the current owner, plans to open Casa Casuarina to the public, saying Versace's home was simply "too magical a place not to be shared." Visits will set you back a princely $50 US; *casacasuarina.com*. METRO WORLD NEWS

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

CAROLINE VON TUEMPLING/ICONICA

A couple snorkelling at sea in the Maldives.

HIROYUKI MATSUMOTO/HIROYUKI MATSUMOTO

An aerial view of some of the Maldives' many islands.

Sunning in a doomed paradise

The Maldives could be under water by the close of this century

TheTravelJunkie

Every year, thousands of tourists come to Maldives looking for fun, sun and a pina colada paradise.

A tiny chain of islands in the Indian Ocean, just off the coast of Sri Lanka, Maldives is rich with high-end resorts that promise beachside relaxation far from the realities of urban living.

One thing many tourists might not know is that the Maldives may be disappearing.

In this palm-tree fringed haven, with over 200 inhabited islands, all is not well. At one metre above sea level, these islands are at risk of vanishing altogether. It's highest natural point is 2.3 metres, making the Maldives one of the lowest countries in the world. With global warming and rising sea levels, some expect the Maldives to disappear almost totally by the end of this century.

Touring the postcard-perfect islands, it's hard to imagine that, one day, this place may be obliterated from the map. I found myself at Soneva Gilli, an extravagant resort with villas that costs a whopping $1,800 US a night.

Here, everything seems normal. Drawing honeymooners, scuba divers and infidels on adulterous week-long retreats, this place is one of the most luxurious pads I've ever stayed in. But beyond the impeccable service and friendly staff, resorts like these are under threat of washing away.

As the ice caps melt, many are looking to islands like the Maldives as an indicator of what's to come for the rest of the world. Maldivian president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was reported as saying to the British media: "Whatever our fate tomorrow will be your fate the day after."

Under threat of extinction beneath the waves, it's not surprising that the Maldives was one of the first countries to sign up for Kyoto Protocol.

BBC reports that the country has implemented reforestation programs, is working to protect its natural coral barrier and is teaching environmental science in schools. A trip to Male, the capital city, shows huge cement breakwaters that protect the shores; but despite all efforts, the fate of the country's 380,000 citizens remains uncertain.

It has many people asking — Will the Maldives become a modern Atlantis?

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

Eco-tourism tips

- Limit air-conditioning use in your hotel room.
- Conserve water and opt out of having your towels and sheets washed daily.
- Drink water that's desalinated at your resort, instead of imported bottled water.
- Don't buy tourist souvenirs made from animals or plant products.
- Reduce energy usage by turning off the lights and TV when not in your room.
- Stay at hotels with strong environmental policies.
- Look for sustainable tour operators who care about environmental protection.

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

JULIA DIMON/METRO CANADA

A resort sits atop stilts in the Maldives, an atoll nation which is comprised of 1,192 islets.

Under threat of extinction beneath the waves, it's not surprising that the Maldives was one of the first countries to sign up for Kyoto Protocol.

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Fey signs book deal
Comedienne Tina Fey has signed a book deal with Little, Brown Book Group. There is no official word on how much she will be pocketing for her work — pitched as more humour than memoir. PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

Wonder woman
Actress Anne Hathaway is lined up to join Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter for director Tim Burton's adaptation of Alice In Wonderland. Hathaway is slated for the role of the White Queen. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Fantasy film hits and misses

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

For years, children's fantasy was considered box office poison. Movies like Jim Henson's Dark Crystal and brilliant animator Ralph Bakshi's 1978 adaptation of The Lord Of The Rings failed in theatres despite the constant support of fantasy novels amongst an enthusiastic Elfish-speaking fan base.

That all changed in 2001 with the unparalleled commercial success of Peter Jackson's Lord Of The Rings and the first Harry Potter film. Now the genre dominates Hollywood and audiences are constantly being treated to films like The Chronicles Of Narnia, The Golden Compass, or this week's City Of Ember.

The studios now view the genre as a cash cow, but sadly it has not been as consistent as they hoped. There have been few monster hits outside of the Potter and Rings films, which has led many to question what makes these movies work?

The answer is quite simple. The studios have predominantly treated these properties as large-scale ATM machines and put very little creative effort into developing them.

The Golden Compass — the film that killed New Line Studios — was handed off to American Pie helmer Chris Weitz, who struggled with the material along with his lost actors.

Similarly, the dwindling success of the Narnia franchise can be associated with the personality-less cinematic transcribing of Andrew Adamson. For any book to work on screen the original work has to be altered dramatically to fit the new medium. Sadly, this rarely happens.

Bill Murray plays Mayor Cole in the film adaptation of the book City of Ember. It opens in theatres on Friday.

Peter Jackson took huge liberties with his Lord Of The Rings adaptations and the films worked beautifully as a result. Likewise, much of the success of the Harry Potter franchise has to be attributed to brilliant screenwriter Steve Kloves' (The Fabulous Baker Boys) uncanny ability to condense and alter J.K. Rowling's texts for the screen.

This week's City Of Ember boasts a script from underrated writer Caroline Thompson (Edward Scissorhands) and direction from Gil Kenan who was responsible for the brilliant kiddie horror picture Monster House.

The team knows how to tell cinematic stories for children. Unfortunately, the movie comes after a string of fantasy flops and will be dumped into theatres. Hopefully audiences will discover it, because this is a tricky genre to get right and all successful attempts deserve recognition.

Short list for Giller Prize unveiled

BOOKS The prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize announced its short list of finalists yesterday, after reviewing 95 books submitted from across the country.

The top prize of $50,000 goes to the author of the best Canadian novel or short-story collection published in English. Each of the four other finalists will receive $5,000.

The finalists for the award are: Joseph Boyden for his novel Through Black Spruce; Anthony De Sa for his collection of short stories Barnacle Love; Marina Endicott for her novel Good to a Fault; Rawi Hage for his novel Cockroach; Mary Swan for her novel The Boys in the Trees.

The winner of the Giller will be announced in Toronto on Nov. 11. REUTERS

Guitar Hero IV, Bond among new games for season

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

The garden furniture showroom in Toronto's design district has been transformed into a dim, moody nightclub to showcase the holiday offerings for Sony's PS3 and PSP game boxes, but it's a bit of a stag night, with scarcely more than three or four females in sight.

You can fill the shoes of actor Daniel Craig's James Bond character in 007: Quantum Of Solace for Activision.

The raised platforms on either end of the room where Rock Band 2 and Guitar Hero IV are being demoed have been colonized by enthusiastic young men fervently miming to Bon Jovi and Smashing Pumpkins tunes, while the white couches that fill the rest of the space are packed with members of the gaming press trying out new titles like Sony's Resistance 2, Ubisoft's Prince Of Persia and Electronic Arts' Mirrors Edge.

"You can play the game without shooting a single person," says Aaron Krause of EA, one of the biggest names in gaming and a third-party game developer for the PlayStation platform. He's showing off Mirrors Edge, patiently explaining terms like "first person shooter" for me, and enthusiastically describing the game, which is based on the urban sport of parkour, or "free running." In a room filled with the sounds of gunfire and agonized screams, it's unusual to find a game where you're actually rewarded for not blowing holes in folks.

Garrett Young, a producer for Treyarch, was part of the team that developed 007: Quantum Of Solace for Activision, and he's eagerly taking me through a level of the game where Daniel Craig's Bond is clambering over the top of a high-speed train on its way to Montenegro to foil some smugglers and get his hands on an invite to a high-stakes poker game. "We wanted to make a great game first then wrap it in the world of Bond," he tells me. The team worked on the game as the new Bond film was being made, working from a shooting script, photos and four visits to the set, and they're expecting it to be a big seller this Christmas.

My gaming skills are sorely out of place at the event, however; sitting alone on a couch in front of a game called Little Big Planet, I manage to press a combination of buttons that turns the screen black and makes the controller go dead. I quietly put it down and slip away quietly.

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Bennett gives birth to girl

Former American Idol contestant Paris Bennett welcomed a baby girl, named Egypt Bennett, at 3:36 p.m. Monday, her rep said. The baby's father chooses to be out of the public eye. **PEOPLE.COM**

Some TV shows die, others are born

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

GOING AWAY, COMING SOON: The new TV season is technically barely two weeks old and we're already counting the dead and expecting babies. Actress Minnie Driver is using her MySpace page to introduce her new baby to the world — she's been a lot less open about the identity of the father — which means she'll have plenty to occupy her now that FX has cancelled The Riches, her actually-quite-good show with comedian Eddie Izzard. The show's strike-truncated second season ended last April, and the woefully-undersung series has been on critical status since then.

TBS has ordered a third season of My Boys, a show I was certain hadn't survived its first, and The Mentalist was given an order of six new episodes by CBS, filling out its first season to a full 22 shows, and almost ensuring that the show — one of the few titles even resembling a hit on the so-called Tiffany network — will be back again next year.

HBO has given a green light to season six of Entourage, apparently pleased with the current season's surge in ratings, Jeremy Piven's third Emmy in a row, and the critical consensus that the show's shaped up after what was considered to be a flabby fourth season. It also needs to be pointed out that, besides the odd miniseries, HBO doesn't have a lot else going on right now.

FX has renewed Sons Of Anarchy, a series about an outlaw biker gang that I had never heard of until now, but which pulled in a cumulative audience of 5.4 million total viewers per episode since its debut early last month, totalled up from multiple weekly broadcasts, according to a TV Week story. "I think the underlying themes of family and the common man's fight against oppressive corporate greed has grabbed people's attention," said Kurt Sutter, husband of Sons Of Anarchy star Katey Sagal and an executive producer of the show. Now there's an idea — solve the current fiscal meltdown by putting the economy in the hands of the Hell's Angels; those Hollywood people — always ready with a creative solution.

FX has cancelled The Riches, starring Minnie Driver and Eddie Izzard.

HBO's Manhunt, a miniseries based on the manhunt for Abraham Lincoln's assassin announced last month, will apparently be joined by The Booths, a Showtime series executive produced by Kevin Bacon, about the "dysfunctional relationship" between Lincoln's killer and his brother, according to a Variety story.

If this trend has wings, look for quality cable series featuring the backstories of Lee Harvey Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan, John Hinckley Jr., Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, Arthur Bremer, Charles Guiteau and Leon Czolgosz. At least one will be a comedy, two will star Harvey Keitel, and one will be a musical that will unexpectedly include a hit song that will feature in future montage sequences taking a nostalgic look back at the events of the last half of the first decade of the 21st century, much the way Disco Inferno is the soundtrack for looks back at the Carter era. Don't ask me how I know — I just do.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Actresses have the floor in new comedy pilot

TELEVISION Meet The Washingtoniennes.

Rachael Taylor, Amanda Walsh and quarterlife star Bitsie Tulloch have landed the female leads in HBO's comedy pilot from Sex and the City star Sarah Jessica Parker.

Based on the semi-autobiographical book by Jessica Cutler about the sexploits of a low-level female congressional staffer with powerful men on Capitol Hill, Washingtonienne revolves around the professional and personal lives of three smart, sophisticated 28-year-old girls working on the Hill.

At the center is Jackie (Taylor), a recent transplant from New York who has decided to pursue a career as a speechwriter but first must work her way up from the intern desk. Her mentor in the ways of Washington is her old college friend April (Tulloch), who has been on the Hill since graduation. And finally there's Laura (Walsh), a small-town girl whose workaholic ways often come at the expense of a social life and who is constantly defending her Republican views to her liberal friends.

Mamma Mia still strong in Europe

BOX OFFICE Forget the fanboys and their comic-book movies, it's time to hail a long-neglected fan base — the mature women who kept Mamma Mia! on top in the international market for the fifth week in a row. One woman in Germany is reported to have seen the ABBA-inspired musical romance more than 70 times.

Thanks to a top-of-the-market bow in Italy ($2.6 million) and strong holdovers, Mamma Mia! pulled in $13.6 million over the weekend from 44 territories, lifting its foreign gross to $377 million. After 13 weeks in Britain, it ranks at No. 4 and has reached a market gross of $123.2 million.

REUTERS

In brief

TELEVISION HBO has renewed its Hollywood-hipster comedy Entourage, a month after the Emmy-winning series began its fifth season. Production on the sixth season will begin in early 2009, with launch slated for the summer. The current season got off to a good start with co-star Jeremy Piven last month winning his third consecutive Emmy, for playing a slimy talent agent. REUTERS

ED	C		B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
10/8/08 primetime	2	CFRN	239	318	etalk	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada The top 20. (N)				CSI: NY "Turbulence" (N)		News (N)
	3	KHQ	-	370	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		The Biggest Loser: Families		Lipstick Jungle
	4	CBXT	-	307	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	6	KREM	-	372	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY
	7	CKEM	241	347	Law & Order: SVU		Hell's Kitchen		Secret Life of American Teen		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Your City
	8	CITV	240	339	ET Canada	Entertainment	Crime Stories (N)		Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		(10:01) NCIS (N)		News Hour
	12	CBXFT	119	705	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		Tous Pour Un (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	-	371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)		Private Practice (N)		Sexy Money
	16	KAYU	-	373	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		'Til Death	'Til Death	News (N)
	19	CHTV	-	-	The Insider (N)	E! News	True Hollywood Story		Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		The Biggest Loser: Families		News (N)
	22	KSPS	-	374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water			Liquid Assets	Latinos '08 (HDTV) (N)		P.O.V.
	24	WTVS	-	364	Bridging the Racial Divide		Latinos '08 (HDTV) (N)		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
news	15	CBCN	502	-	CBC News: The National		Canada Votes: The X Challenge			National	CBC News: The National		CBC News
	21	TWN	505	398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	27	CNN	500	500	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	54	CTVN	501	391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	70	BNN	504	508	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
sports	20	TSN	400	400	NHL on TSN Season Preview		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Off the Record	Boxing Yuriokis Gamboa vs. Marcos Ramirez.		
	23	net	408	418	MLB Baseball	MLB Baseball American League Division Series Game 5 -- Boston Red Sox at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.							Ult. Fighter
	47	SPEED	417	406	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)
	94	SCORE	410	403	(5) RaceNight		Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage
family	9	EDACC	267	351	Help TV		America's Next Top Model (N)		Mad Men		Private Practice (N)		Help TV
	14	YTV	552	543	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	17	TREE	553	546	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	42	TOON	555	545	World of Quest	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	6teen		Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)
	45	FAM	557	541	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
cable variety	-	TVA	121	714	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Occupation	Poule-oeufs or	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Les Soeurs Elliot (N) (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	18	CMT	575	583	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search			Home Improve.	Reba
	25	A&E	615	520	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	26	MMM	571	581	Listed		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five
	29	FOOD	603	561	Iron Chef America		Dinner Imposs.	Dinner Imposs.	Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		Iron Chef Am.
	31	SHOW	617	522	EastEnders	Saxondale	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Billable Hours	Billable Hours	Durham County		The Riches
	32	DISC	520	505	Monster Moves (N)		Mayday		Daily Planet		MythBusters		Cash Cab
	33	SLICE	601	562	Work Out		Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out		Housewives
	34	W	602	567	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	What You Eat	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion
	35	TLC	521	560	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	36	BRAVO	620	523	Wingfield	Letters	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order		Without a Trace "Run"		Beautiful Ppl
	38	SPIKE	628	584	UFC Unleashed (N)		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		MANswers (N)	MANswers	CSI: NY (HDTV)		Trek: Voyager
	40	HIST	522	506	The Lost Gospel of Judas		NCIS		Crime Stories		Digging for the Truth		Lost Gospel
	41	COM	626	547	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black
	43	SPACE	627	528	Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters International (N)		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Lost "Deus Ex Machina"		Deep Space 9
	44	WPCH	294	650	(6) *Vertical Limit* (2000, Suspense)			Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	*Vertical Limit* ★★ (2000, Suspense)		
	46	OLN	411	457	Ed's Up	Adventures	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up
	48	TROP	619	525	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	50	STAR	621	527	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	etalk	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		Hollywood
	52	HGTV	600	564	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Million Dollar Listing		Holmes on Homes		Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin
	65	TLN	700	800	La Figlia di Elisa Ritorno		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	George Lopez	The Sopranos (SS)		David Rocco
	92	APTN	269	350	News		APTN National News: Contact		Reel Insight		Canadian Geographic Bear attacks.		
	93	VISION	261	394	Darling Buds of May		Enigma "Nightmare"		Hope Island		Summer Wine	No Place Like	Darling Buds
	100	MTV	581	566	Real World-Road Rules		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	Man and Wife	Exiled	Real World-Rd
	101	MM	570	580	PunchMuch		MTV's Top Pop Group		disBand	Technical Diff.	Punk'd	MTV's Top Pop Group	
	102	CPAC	512	396	(6:30) Headline Politics			Revue	Question Period		Prime.-Politics	Headline Politics	
	103	CLT	526	507	(6) *A Change of Place*		Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		America in the Fifties		*Change-Place*
	105	TV5	145	761	(6) *Irène*	La 25ème im	Partir	Facteur	Journal TV5	Le 3950 "Jeunes"		Sur la route légendaire du thé	
	106	RDI	126	730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Journal RDI	Le National	Le Téléjournal

critics' corner

Little Mosque on the Prairie

Amaar! Come back, Amaar! In this new episode, the young imam (Zaib Shaikh) leaves Mercy to return to Toronto and ponder his future in the wake of J.J.'s (Stephen Lobo) proposal to Rayyan (Sitara Hewitt). Yasir (Carlo Rota) tries to persuade him to return, but this may be easier said than done. Sheila McCarthy also stars in "Lord of the Ring." 8 PM on CBXT

Knight Rider

When Mike (Justin Bruening) is lethally poisoned, he has to fake the assassination of a billionaire tech mogul in order to get the antidote. Then bizarre hallucinations mark the return of a mysterious woman (Paula Garces) from Mike's past with clues that may help him remember. As always, KITT is voiced by Val Kilmer — who never really complains about gas prices. 9 PM on KHQ CHTV

Harrelson set for superhero role
Woody Harrelson is set to become the latest actor to play a superhero on the big screen. He'll portray the delusional Defendor in a new movie that starts shooting in Toronto next month. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Kidman talks motherhood

FAMILY Becoming a mother at a later age has been rewarding for Nicole Kidman, but it's also bittersweet, People.com reports.

"At 41, it's a more painful love," she tells November's Elle about the July birth of her daughter, Sunday Rose. "It's almost like my heart is stretching; I'm feeling all these muscles stretch with emotion. It's a beautiful love but there's a lot of fear and pain for her life, and for Bella's and Connor's life."

One person who helps Kidman deal with the pain is husband Keith Urban, whom Kidman says she shares a "profound" love.

"I didn't foresee it," she says, "that you can meet someone who you have a deep and more profound love with. You move into a stage where you're able to be a more fuller person in your relationship."

But former husband Tom Cruise shouldn't take Kidman's comment as a slight. "I don't want to take away from 11 years with that man that were really important," she says. "Really, for our kids — they were amidst a lot of love. It wasn't bad."

Kidman tells Elle that she doesn't regret marrying Cruise when she was only 22 years old.

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GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Ramsay targets Prince Charles

PEOPLE Chef Gordon Ramsay has a new target for his famous temper: Prince Charles, People.com reports.

The Hell's Kitchen star, who has notched up 12 Michelin stars and a string of successful restaurants, has condemned some of the prince's line of organic produce for being "boring" and "processed."

The Prince, 59, established Duchy Originals to market a wide range of organic foods — from oatmeal crackers to meat.

But Ramsay, 41, tells the magazine of the U.K.'s Daily Telegraph, "I am upset with him. When I looked at his Duchy food I was gobsmacked, amazed, dumbfounded at what I discovered."

Just what exactly is giving Ramsay these new Kitchen Nightmares?

"The number of sodiums, and the sugar content, is embarrassing," he said, also knocking the line's high prices. "It's boring, processed food. I don't think the Royals should be producing food like that, even if the profits do go to charity."

Duchy Originals' boss Andrew Baker fought back on Monday, saying they were "proud" of "selling top quality, delicious products made from wholesome, natural ingredients, grown in a sustainable way."

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Duchovny out of rehab

ON THE MEND David Duchovny has checked out of a rehabilitation centre for sex addiction, according to his lawyer, Stanton "Larry" Stein, People.com reports.

"David is out of rehab and about to start a new movie," Stein says. "He successfully completed his treatment."

The actor, 48, voluntarily entered a facility to treat the addiction in August.

Duchovny has been married to actress Téa Leoni since 1997. They have two children, daughter Madelaine West, 9, and son Kyd, 6.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Driver posts baby photo

PEOPLE Actress Minnie Driver has snubbed the opportunity to show off her newborn son Henry in a celebrity magazine spread. She's posted her own photograph online, imdb.com reports.

Driver, 38, gave birth to little Henry Story Driver in Los Angeles last month. Instead of selling pictures of the infant to the highest bidder, she's chosen to share them with fans and friends on her MySpace.com page free of charge.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Woody Allen once said that life doesn't imitate art, it imitates bad television. Turns out he was right.

David Duchovny, who stars in Californication as a sex addict, has checked out of sex rehab. Ladies, Internet providers, knotholes, and still-warm cherry pies beware. He's now ready to start a new movie. One can hope it's not of the homemade sex tape variety.

I've heard that the second hardest thing about sex addiction is admitting that you have a problem. The third hardest thing about it must be realizing that this is what it takes these days for a husband and father of two to promote his career, because the talk-show circuit is so 20th Century. They tried to make him hype his TV show, he said "Yes, yes, yes."

The questions that dominated water coolers and Internet forums when Duchovny went in for treatment in August are now bound to be revisited. Allow me to recap. Can a predilection for a biological imperative really be considered an addiction? If sex addiction means being unable to concentrate on anything but sex all day, shouldn't most 16-year-old boys be in rehab?

The truth, much like David Duchovny's dinga-ling, is out there, apparently all too often.

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Thursday Sunny 9° / -4°
Friday Variable 5°/ -5°

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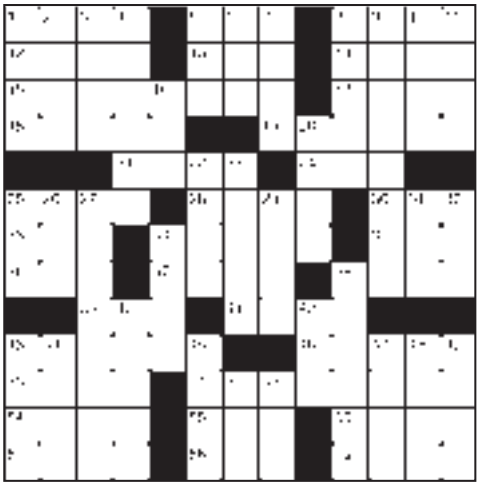


Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		2		1		4	3	
9	4		2				5	
		6			7			
		9		5				
3		4				8		1
				8		9		
			1			6		
	2				8		9	3
	8	5		6		7		

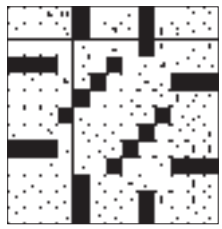
Crossword across

1 Cows' chaws
5 Scenery chewer
8 Cinematographer Nykvist
12 Sandwich cookie
13 Longoria or Mendes
14 Out of kilter
15 Music lover's buy
17 Egyptian bird
18 Bizarre
19 Solvent derived from petroleum
21 Government overthrow
24 Exploit
25 Lotion additive
28 Colorado ski mecca
30 Pair
33 Moo goo gai pan pan
34 Tubular pasta
35 Once around the track
36 And so on (Abbr.)
37 Secular
38 Crooked
39 Eventual aves
41 Burn somewhat
43 Chefs' garb
46 It becomes igneous rock
50 Parliament title
51 Swanson product
54 Drench
55 Rowing need
56 It can be raw
57 Earthenware pot
58 Thickness
59 Mop

Crossword down

1 Couturier Chanel
2 Language of Pakistan
3 Credit card result
4 Origin
5 Coop dweller
6 "Hail, Caesar!"
7 "You Bet Your Life" host
8 "Red — in the Sunset"
9 Rabbit's cousin?
10 Ms. Brockovich
11 Wall St. initials
16 Old Olds
20 Christmas
22 Eye layer
23 "War of the Worlds" aftermath
25 Idolater's emotion
26 Parcel of land
27 Gunfight site
29 Small measure
31 Pale
32 Make up your mind
34 Blueprint
38 Cattle markings
40 Stinger ingredient
42 Parisian pal
43 As well
44 Combine resources
45 Cease
47 Chew persistently
48 Transcending (Pref.)
49 Bedouin
52 Actor Kilmer
53 Parched

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	5	1	4	9	2	3	6	7
7	4	6	3	1	8	5	9	2
3	9	2	7	6	5	4	1	8
2	3	7	9	4	6	8	5	1
9	6	4	8	5	1	2	7	3
1	8	5	2	7	3	9	4	6
4	7	8	1	2	9	6	3	5
6	2	9	5	3	7	1	8	4
5	1	3	6	8	4	7	2	9

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Linguine with tomato sauce

INGREDIENTS:
1.5 lb (750 g) Italian tomatoes, seeded and chopped
2/3 cup (150 mL) chopped fresh basil
1/4 cup (50 mL) extra virgin olive oil
1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped Italian parsley
2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped fresh mint
2 tsp (10 mL) grated orange rind
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
pepper to taste
13 oz (370 g) linguine
1/4 cup (50 mL) freshly grated Parmesan cheese to serve

METHOD:
1. Mix the tomatoes, basil, oil, parsley, mint, orange rind, garlic and pepper in a bowl. Let the mixture stand for 2-1/2 hours at room temperature.
2. Cook the pasta according to the package directions. Drain the pasta well and place in a large bowl. Top with the sauce, sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese and serve.

PER SERVING
424 calories, 12 g protein, 17 g total fat, 3 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 55 g total carbohydrate, 3 g sugars, 6 g fibre, 94 mg sodium

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
An emotional burden needs closure. Keep your feet planted on the ground. Friends are waiting for promises to be kept.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone can't get you out of his mind. No one can concentrate because confusion reigns. Focus on taking care of some details immediately.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A woman's sense of right and wrong is offensive. A man feels forced to take on the world. You're able to fulfill plans, and bring things to conclusion.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Somebody's hostility will make you self-conscious. There's no need to feel sorry for yourself. You must reply to a message from a selfish person.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Strengthen your emotional connection with your family. You can thwart criticism by taking action. Declarations of love will be well received.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A disclosure causes dizzy anticipation. Simple pleasures will become complicated. You can create a dramatic event.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A man faces a tedious ordeal. Someone wants to take a break. Others are living in denial. You can accomplish more by concentrating.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Blessings will come in odd little packages. Scolding will cause misery. You'll help to stabilize a situation.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Deception can cause suffering. A con artist wants to tell someone to get lost. Someone's sad lot in life doesn't interest you.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Frustration results from interference. Someone tells you something you don't want to know. A frightened person discourages a grumbler.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Others will go along with your plans without a fuss. You are calm about facing a difficulty alone. Someone begs your permission to do something.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A delightful person complicates a wonderful situation. Nobody knows how mischievous you've been. Don't be too friendly with an emotional vampire.

WEEKLY CD GIVEAWAY!

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SARAH McLACHLAN:
Closer, the best of Sarah McLachlan
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metronews.ca metro Do it daily.
Contest closes on October 14th, 2008 at midnight

This day in history

OCT. 8, 1582: Because of the implementation of the Gregorian calendar this day does not exist in this year in Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain.
OCT. 8, 1871: Four major fires break out on the shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago, Peshtigo, Wisconsin, Holland, Michigan, and Manistee, Michigan.
OCT. 8, 1932: The Indian Air Force is established.
OCT. 8, 1967: Guerrilla leader Che Guevara and his men are captured in Bolivia.
OCT. 8, 1991: The Croatian Parliament cuts all remaining ties with Yugoslavia.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRÉ ARMSTRONG
JUDGE

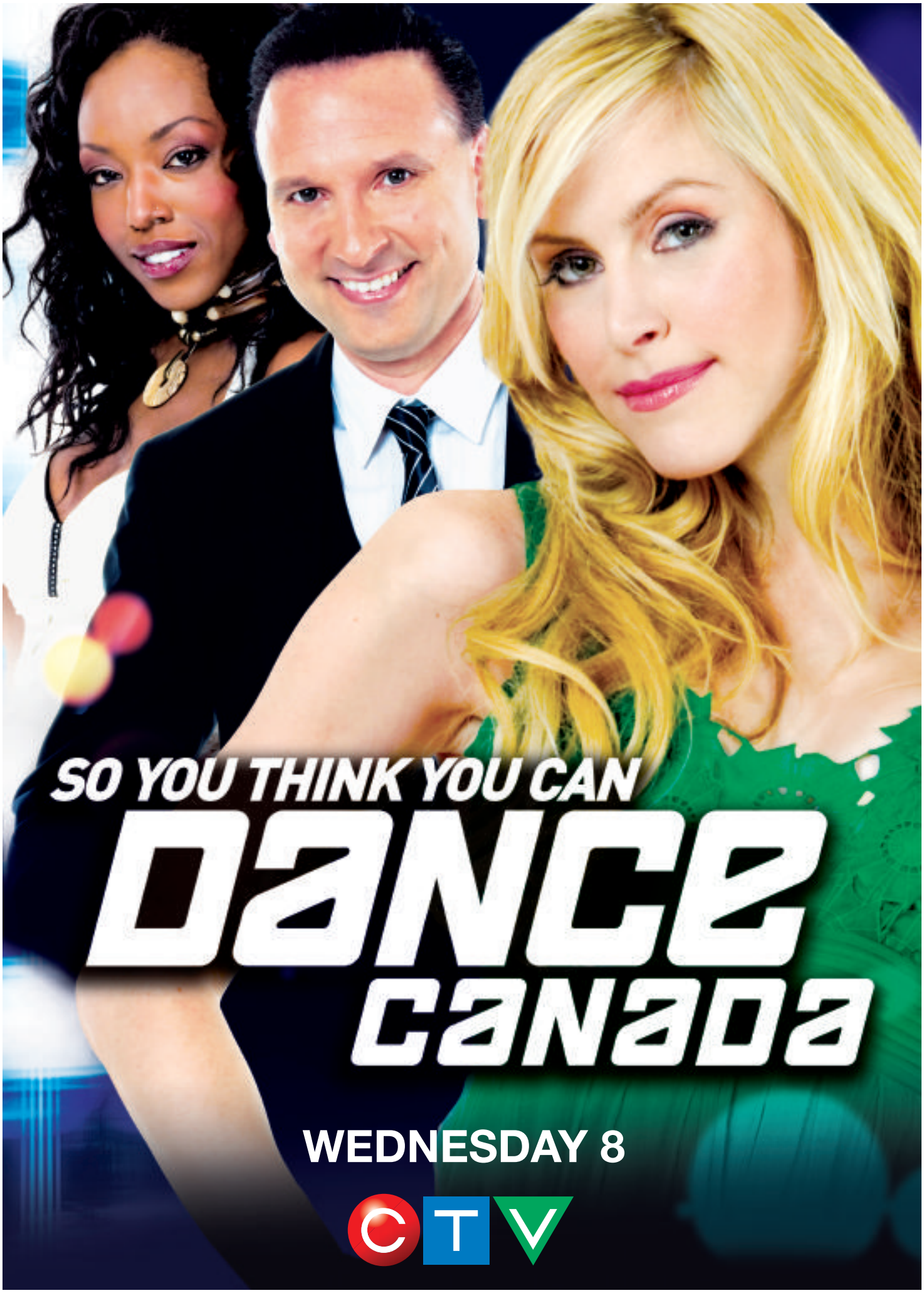
Armstrong's technical training and flare for urban street dance shaped her into a multi-talented dancer, actress and choreographer. She has appeared on *Top O the Pops, Canadian Idol, BET's 106 & Park and The MTV Video Music Awards.* Celebrities Armstrong has worked with include: Rhianna, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Kreesha Turner, Jay-Z, Hillary Duff and Missy Elliot. Armstrong's feature role in *Breakin' In: The Making of a Hip Hop Dancer* lead to her acting debut as Candy in *Save the Last Dance 2*. She also plays Michelle, lead actress in the MTV/Paramount dance feature, and Sundance Film Festival hit, *How She Move.*

JEAN MARC GENEREUX
JUDGE

Quebec's Jean Marc Genereux began dancing at age 10 with his partner, and now wife, France Mousseau. In the early 1980's they began dancing the International style of ballroom. Together, as National Champions, they have won multiple dance competitions and events - performing as dance artists all over the world from Asia and Australia to Europe and America. Genereux and Mousseau retired from the competitive scene in 1998, however, the two still travel all over the world to perform, as well as judge and choreograph for elite competitors. Genereux performed in the films *Dance With Me* and *Shall We Dance*, with Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere. In 2006, Genereux joined the cast of the American version of *So You Think You Can Dance* as a choreographer.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE CANADA

CTV


SO YOU THINK YOU CAN
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